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Department of State EXCISE

INCOMING TELEGRAM (83)

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 SY-05
DCT-02 IO-14 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CAE-00
INRE-00 /091 W

062292 161937Z /42

O R 161840Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3206
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 4389

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/16/86 (LAWRENCE L) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: ELECTION ENUMERATION STARTS

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: DESPITE FAIRLY HEAVY INTIMIDATION AND THREATS AGAINST OFFICIALS, THE FIRST WEEK OF THE ENUMERATION SEEMS TO HAVE GONE FAIRLY SMOOTHLY, AND ABOUT HALF THE VOTERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED. THE PNP SEEMS TO BE PERPETRATING SOME DIRTY TRICKS, BUT SO FAR NOT EFFECTIVELY ENOUGH TO SERIOUSLY HINDER THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

3. [redacted] TOLD US ON JUNE 13 THAT THE ENUMERATION PHASE OF THE ELECTION, STARTED ON JUNE 7, HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A SOMEWHAT ROCKY START IN PLACES, BUT OVERALL THE MASSIVE FOR THIS COUNTRY EFFORT WILL PRODUCE A REASONABLY GOOD VOTERS LIST. (b) (1) (ED)

4. BEYOND THE EXPECTED ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OF TRYING TO GET SUPPLIES, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. ORGANIZED FOR 5,200 ENUMERATORS (I.E. THE REGISTERARS), THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FROM THE OUTSET HAS BEEN VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION. [redacted] IN THE FIRST WEEK ABOUT 36 ENUMERATORS AND SCRUTINEERS (I.E. THE POLLWATCHERS FROM EACH PARTY) HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY ASSULTED-- SHOT, STABBED, AND "CHOPPED" (THIS IS THE THE JAMAICAN USE OF THE UBIQUITOUS MACHETE). NONE HAVE BEEN KILLED, BUT SEVERAL ARE ON THE CRICIAL LIST. BEYOND THESE ACTUAL ASSAULTS HE HAS RECEIVED OVER 300 CREDIBLE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THREATS. AFTER SOME PROBING [redacted] ADMITTED THAT MOST OF THE ASSAULTS AND ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE THREATS HAVE BEEN AGAINST JLP SCRUTIENEERS OR ENUMERATORS WHO WERE THOUGH TO BE JLP SYMPATHIZERS. (b) (1) (ED) (b) (1) (ED)

5. THE VIOLENCE HAS OBCIOUSLY HAD A SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE MORALE OF THE OTHER ELECTION OFFICIALS. [redacted] THE PROBLEM AFFECTS AS MANY AS 12 OF THE 60 CONSTITUENCIES MOSTLY KINGSTON, BUT ALSO FOUR COUNTRY AREAS. IN THREE KINGSTON AREAS CONSTITUENCICES THE ENUMERATION PROCESS HAS BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY STALLED DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF TWO RE-TURNING OFFICERS AND THE (NATURAL) DEATH OF A THIRD. [redacted] DECIDED TO RUN THE ENUEMERATION FOR THESE THREE CONSTI-TUENCIES DIRECTLY FROM THE ELECTORAL HEADQUARTERS THE FORMER US EMBASSY BUILDING IN DOWN TOWN KINGSTON. THE REPORTING OFFICER WATCHED ON FRIDAY A MINI-RIOT OF ENUMERATORS" SCRUTINEERS FROM THESE CONSTITUENCEIS WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE ELECTORAL HEADQUARTERS. THEY HAD NOT YET BEEN PAID NOR INSTRUCTED. THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE PROCESS WILL GO SLOWLY IN THE THREE TOUGHEST CONSTITUENCIES IN THE COUNTRY. (b) (1) (ED) (b) (1) (ED)

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 4389

6. [redacted] ASSERTED THAT THE OVERALL ENUMERATION PROCESS IS GOING AS WELL OR BETTER THAN HE EXPECTED. AND HE ESTIMATES THAT, WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK, ALREADY OVER HALF THE VOTERS (I.E., ABOUT ONE-HALF MILLION) HAVE BEEN REGISTERED. THE IMPORTANT POINT CONCERNING THE PROBLEM AREAS, HE SAID, IS THAT THE SYSTEM ITSELF IS WORKING TO PREVENT ANY KIND OF BOGUS REGISTRATION--THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY A FEW RATHER PATHETIC ATTEMPTS AT DOUBLE REGISTRATION, MOSTLY ON BORDER STREETS OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND EAILY DETECTED. WHERE INTIMIDATION HAS STALLED THE EFFORT, THERE MERELY REMAINS A TASK OF ORGANIZING ENOUGH POLICE PROTECTION TO GET ON WITH THE JOB. THE ENUMERATION ITSELF IS SOLID AND REASONABLY BOGUS-PROOF, [redacted] ASSERTS. ANOTHER BIG ATTEMPT AT MANIPULATION BY MOVING MASSES OF VOTERS INTO AREAS OTHER THAN THEIR REAL HOMES IS A "STICKY WICKET" FOR THE ENUMERATORS, HE SAID. THE DIMINSIONS OF THIS PLANNED FRAUD ARE YET TO BE DETERMINED, BUT SO FAR HE BELIEVES IT IS A STANDOFF. THE PNP HAS BEEN WORKING THE GAME HEAVILY IN THE KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW AREA, SO MUCH THAT IN AT LEAST TWO CONSTITUENCIES, EAST RURAL AND WEST RURAL, THE ELECTORAL RESULTS COULD BE AFFECTED. HOWEVER, THE JLP IS WORKING THE SAME GAME IN MACHESTER AND CLARENDON, HE SAID. AND HE HAS INSTRUCTED THE RETURNING OFFICERS TO GET TOUGH ON THIS GAMBIT.

7. THE FIRST WEEK'S EFFORT APPEARS TO AUGER SUCCESS FOR THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM. GENERAL VIOLENCE HAS BEEN REMARKABLY ABSENT. INTIMIDATION AND TRIBAL WAFARE HAVE ACTUALLY RECEDED SOMEWHAT, FROM ALL INDICATIONS. THE WEEK PRECEDING THE UNUMERATION WAS BAD -- OUR COUNT TOTALS ABOUT 43 KILLED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AND MUCH BURNING AND CHOPPING. BUT THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE DURING THE ENUMERATION ITSELF HAVE NOT OCCURRED, AT LEAST IN THE GHETTO AREAS OF KINGSTON. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS OF INCREASING VIOLENCE IN THE TWO-THIRDS OF THE ISLAND'S POPULATION NOT IN KINGSTON. THIS VIOLENCE SEEMS TO BE MOSTELY FROM THE PNP, AND CONSISTS OF BULLY-BOYS DRIVING AROUND AND SHOOTING UP THE COUNTRYSIDE, WARNING JLP SYMPATHIZERS NOT TO REGISTER OR VOTE. AN AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST, ON CONTRACT TO THE OAS FOR A STUDY IN WESTERN JAMAICA, TOLD US IN DETAIL ABOUT 200 RENTAL VEHICLES HIRED BY THE PNP WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO CARRY THUGS AROUND. A PNP SENATOR, JOHN ATKINS, ALSO CONFIRMED THIS INTIMIDATION EFFORT IN WESTERN JAMAICA WHICH HE CALLS A "COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN". THE JLP COULD BE EXPECTED TO MEET THIS EFFORT TOOTH-FOR-TOOTH, BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS OF SUCH TACTICS AS YET. A SENIOR JLP OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT HE BELIEVES THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS GOING WELL FOR THE JLP AND THAT THE VAUNTED PNP ORGANIZATION SKILLS ARE NOT WORKING.
LAWRENCE

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